that no survey or census of any particular community in the State has been ordered by them.

(c) The All India Christian Council expressed apprehensions about some routine and localised administrative enquiries being carried on by the State authorities. However, the Government of Gujarat has informed that no feeling of fear amongst the local Christian families has been reported.

(d) Government is committed to protect properties and lives of all the citizens including minorities irrespective of their caste, creed or religion.

Strength of National Integration Council

4221. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present strength of Members of National Integration Council;

(b) when the last meeting of NIC was held;

(c) the reasons for not calling a single meeting of NIC by the present NDA Government; and

(d) by when Government propose to call a meeting of NIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI):(a) and (b) The last meeting of National Integration Council (NIC) was held on 23.11.1992. At that time there were 147 Members of the NIC.

(c) and (d) The reconstitution of NIC is under consideration of the Government at the moment and the meeting of NIC would be convened thereafter.

Threat perception on Indo-Bangla Border

4222. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that threat perception on Indo-Bangladesh Border is on the rise;

(b) if so, whether Government proposed to increase the number of security personnel along the border; and

(c) what is the long term plan being envisaged by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI):(a) and (b) There is no perceptible rise in threat perception on Indo-Bangladesh Border except for a few incidents involving BDR & BSF because of illegal cross border movements of people and goods, tea-plantation and construction of structures within 150 yards from zero line etc. The Government have approved raising of additional force for BSF in a phased manner.

(c) The Government have sanctioned erection of fencing along the Indo-Bangladesh Border. In addition, round the clock surveillance of the border by patrolling, conduct of special operations, up-gradation of intelligence network, use of night-vision devices, augmentation of strength for patrolling/naKa duties are some of the steps being taken for effective management of this border.

Padma Awardees

4223. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI ABANI ROY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) who are the Padma Awardees for the currect year whose names have been notified on January 25,2003;

(b) whether there has been any addition made subsequent to those notified on January 25,2003 as reported in the media, and

(c) what steps have been taken to allay the fear of conferring Padma awards through back door?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI):(a) to (c) The names of persons selected for Padma awards are announced, through a Press Note, on the eve of the Republic Day. The names of recipients of Padma awards are 'notified in the Official Gazette on the day of the Investiture Ceremony when the awards are conferred by the President.

The names of recipients of Padam awards notified in the Official Gazette on the day of the Investiture Ceremony held on 3rd April, 2003, and the